

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A user equipment comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting a signature in a selected one of a plurality of time slots of a common packet channel, the common packet channel defined by a predetermined set of codes and having a plurality of access opportunities, each access opportunity defined by a time slot of the plurality of time slots and a signature; and

a receiver for receiving an identifier of a selected code of the predetermined set of codes, the selected code selected from a currently unused code, if available, based on a code association with the access opportunity defined by the selected signature and selected one time slot; and

wherein the user equipment communicates using the one selected code.

2. The user equipment of claim 1 wherein the identifier indicates an uplink spreading factor for communications to be sent from the user equipment.

3. The user equipment of claim 1 wherein the transmitted signature is selected from a set of sixteen signatures and the selected one time slot is selected from a set of eight time slots.

4. The user equipment of claim 1 wherein the selected code is used to define a downlink physical channel for downlink communications.

5. The user equipment of claim 4 wherein the downlink physical channel is time multiplexed into time slots and the identifier indicates a selected one of the time slots for the downlink communications.

6. The user equipment of claim 1 wherein the identifier is indicated by a selected one out of a set of phases of an acknowledgment signal.

7. The user equipment of claim 1 wherein the identifier is attached extra bits to an acknowledgment signal.

8. The user equipment of claim 1 wherein the identifier is indicated by a selected one out of a set of Golay sequences.

9. A user equipment comprising:

means for transmitting a signature in a selected one of a plurality of time slots of a common packet channel, the common packet channel defined by a predetermined set of codes and having a plurality of access opportunity defined by a time slot of the plurality of time slots and a signature;

means for receiving an identifier of a selected code of the predetermined set of codes, the selected code selected from a currently unused code, if available, based on a code association with the access opportunity defined by the selected signature and selected one time slot; and

means for communicating using the selected one code.

10. The user equipment of claim 9 wherein the identifier indicates an uplink spreading factor for communications to be sent from the user equipment.

11. The user equipment of claim 9 wherein the transmitted signature is selected from a set of sixteen signatures and the selected one time slot is selected from a set of eight time slots.

12. The user equipment of claim 9 wherein the selected code is used to define a downlink physical channel for downlink communications.

13. The user equipment of claim 12 wherein the downlink physical channel is time multiplexed into time slots and the identifier indicates a selected one of the time slots for the downlink communications.

14. The user equipment of claim 9 wherein the identifier is indicated by a selected one out of a set of phases of an acknowledgment signal.

15. The user equipment of claim 9 wherein the identifier is attached extra bits to an acknowledgment signal.

16. The user equipment of claim 9 wherein the identifier is indicated by a selected one out of a set of Golay sequences.